

Health Talents International
General and GYN Surgery
October 2019

Team Participants: Emergency Physician: David Brazzel; General Surgeon: Tony Fillmore; OB/GYN Surgeon: Janet Crawford, Cathie E., Mark Sever, Angel Tabuyo; Anesthesiologist: Adrian (Buster) Herren; CRNA: Jeff Cherye, Tim Dawson; SRNA: Jennifer Katsura, Ashley Wensley; OR Nurse: Lydia Alleyne; Surgical Tech: Tamera Ames, Erika Gaytan; LPN Surgical Nurse: Jeanie Damren; RN Circulator: Roxana Olaru-Sherrill, Susan Thomas; Recovery RNs: John Allen, Logan Cross, Lindsay Frew, Cathi Gentry, Roger Graves, Jacqui Hurd, Mary Lokey, Sandi Miller, Rosio Moreno, Heather Shingleton, Janelle Stadek, Lyndsie Warren; Lab Tech: Thomas McGinnes; AEMT: Kassi Payne; Intake, Discharge: Rita Sills; Translator: Alyssa Barrundia, Luis Barrundia, Jamie Carlson, Ruth Cross, Lupe Mendoza, Ricardo Moore, Andrea Morales, Mark Sherill, Jaclyn Sherrill, JoLee Thayer; Caregiver: Lisa Cross, Sydney Fillmore, Hanna Meerjanssen, Ben Shingleton, Allie Shingleton, Nate Shingleton, Mikala Steiner; Trip Chaplain: Bill Mara; Sterilization: Dean Cross, Kyle Parks, Cary Sills; Executive Director: Rick Harper; Trip Leader: Sheri Kretzschmar

While the last couple of weeks were spent pursuing staff to accommodate three surgical suites, we found a few that responded at the ultimate moment with, “Here I am, send me!” Those hours of searching paid off when we met outside the Guatemalan airport with luggage and supplies in hand. We reunited with friends that we had not seen for a while as we began making new friends.

We loaded the bus and vehicles and began our trek to Montellano. Bill, who served as our chaplain for the week, gave thanks for safe travels thus far and extended travel mercies.

Arrival to Clinica Ezell was prompt and we proceeded with inventory, dinner, orientation and a good night of rest.

We enjoyed breakfast and then worshipped with the Montellano Church of Christ. Alex, the new director of Ezell presented the sermon on love and how it should be expressed with our family members and also with other Christian. Through the week, I heard people making reference to it, so I know that his message touched many hearts.

Tim and Ricardo volunteered to read scripture and Rick led us in some English songs.



Following worship, we met with Dr. Walter to review the needed information. While we had a group of veteran staff, we also had several new people. Lunch followed the meeting and soon the OR was running. The nursing staff, caregivers and translators met in the post-op area to review forms, location of supplies and to have their questions answered.

All patients were prayed with before their surgery. With this patient, Bill, Ricardo, Dr. Buster and the Guatemala staff raise their petition before the throne.

Sunday, all went as planned and we finished with 4 general patients and 4 GYN patients. There were no complications and we were very thankful.

We ended the evening with time together and prayed for each patient by name. Preparations were made for Monday morning and the OR list was ready.

We finished Monday with 6 general patients and 5 GYN. The patient caregivers rallied together and followed the nursing staff to see what they could do to be helpful. JoLee took a few to the dining hall and started a much needed pill count!

Waiting in post-op for a patient to roll out. Mary, Heather and the caregivers are ready!





By Tuesday, everyone was rolling.....Jaclyn and Hanna making beds to help.

Rick with some of the staff.....Lyndsie, Mark, Tamra and Roxana before he returned to the states.



One young patient, Shirley, had surgery on her birthday. Mark, stepped up and went beyond his caregiving role. He asked the kitchen staff to bake a small cake and then after dinner, he presented it to her. Sorry that I chopped your head off, Mark! There were so many people around, I had to stand on a bed to get the photo!



Everyone gathered to sing Happy Birthday and enjoy the cake! Notice the excitement on the mother's face. Mark, your thoughtfulness touched this family. It reminded us again of the message from Alex on Sunday.



On Wednesday, we had a full OR schedule with 6 general and 6 GYN. One case gave us a little scare but prayers were sent in behalf of the patient and OR staff. Cary, jumped and presented the instruments that were necessary for the case. Prayers were answered!

While that was happening, another OR needed some relief.....and Lyndsie jumped to answer that call. Dr. Buster providing support as Lyndsie scrubbed in. I think that Lyndsie will be spending more time in the OR!

On Wednesday night, we spent some time with our patients, singing with them and wishing them a good night of rest.



On Thursday, we started winding down. The OR staff had time to coordinate a colorful photo together.



So, how does a group of 53 North Americans arrive to work with a group of Guatemalan staff and all go so well? It happens when we all have the desire to serve those that have needs, in the name of Christ. It is a special bond that develops. Someone in the above photo wrote, “Never have I considered strangers family, but they are. A week and it felt like we knew each other 4ever...”

Thursday evening we enjoyed dinner and our last devotional time together. We thanked the kitchen staff for their delicious meals. We know that they work very hard and many hours through the day. People had an opportunity to share how the week had touched them individually and special memories that they will take home. We concluded the night by praying for each of our forty-four patients.

Many thanks for those who led songs and prayers though the week. Everyone pitched in and the week flowed well. Every person made a special contribution and we hope that you will return soon.

Friday morning arrived quickly! It was time for our group photo and travels to Antigua and the airport.



Alex took the photo for us and we prepared for our departure.

A small van took a few of the member directly to the airport. Just a few days ago, we began our, “Hellos” and now we begin our, “See-you-laters.” Many of us in Guatemala, do not like “Good-byes.” We trust that God will bring us together again for His service and for His glory. So, until that time, “See-you-later!”